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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The objections and the recommendations will be kept in mind when the question is taken up."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In view of the conflicting reports from two hon. Members of the locality, may I suggest that the headquarters be shifted to Madras? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Another alternative is that it may remain where it is now."

The village ooranies of former Pudukkottai State.

* 369 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the authorities now exercising jurisdiction over the village ooranies that belonged to the Revenue Department of the former Pudukkottai State before merger ; and

(*b*) from what date did the present Revenue Department in Pudukkottai division, Tiruchirappalli district, cease to exercise control?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " (*a*) The village ooranies lying within the panchayat board areas are under the control of the respective panchayat boards and those lying in non-panchayat areas are under the control of the Tiruchirappalli district board.

" (*b*) From August 1951."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact that on account of the confusion of ownership of the ooranies, the watchmen have not been paid for months together, if not for years, and that they have begun to relax their vigilance leading to the misuse of these ooranies? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " I think the watchmen were not paid previously, but now that the panchayat board and the district board are in control of them, the pay will be disbursed. I cannot exactly say whether it has been actually disbursed."

Maternity benefit for women workers.

* 370 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to amend the provisions of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act of 1935 so as to enable women workers employed in the non-seasonal factories in the State entitled for the maternity benefit to get full wages instead of annas 8 as stipulated in section 5 of the Act? 2–30 p.m.

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" There is a proposal to amend the Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1935, to remove the distinction between ' seasonal ' and ' non-seasonal

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factories ' and references to the Factories Act, 1934, consequent on the repeal of the Factories Act, 1934, by the Factories Act, 1948. It is also proposed to amend the proviso to section 5 (1) of the Act to make it clear how the period of 240 days should be calculated and also to bring it into line with the more liberal provisions of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act in regard to qualifying service and medical examination.

But there is no proposal to amend the Act so as to enable the women workers employed in the non-seasonal factories entitled for the maternity benefit to get *full wages* instead of 8 annas as stipulated in section 5 of the Act.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—'' In view of the fact that the cost of living has increased by four or five times since 1935 and in view of the fact that the mother-workers in the non-seasonal factories are suffering a lot with the meagre allowance, will the Government be pleased to consider the question of giving effect to the proposal? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' I would like to have notice on this question, Sir.''

Silt clearing in Kolianur channel, Villupuram.

* 371 *Q.*—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER (on behalf of Sri V. R. Nagarajan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the ryots of the Villupuram taluk regarding the Kolianur channel flowing through the Villupuram town ;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the encroachments made on the channel and its banks ; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to remove the silt and sewage-mud formed in abundance on the bed of the channel?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
'' (*a*) Yes.

'' (*b*) & (*c*) A report has been called for from the Collector of South Arcot.''

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—'' May I know the date on which the representation was received and the reasons for the delay? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
'' The reason for the delay is, it was referred to the Public Works Department. But, it is now understood that it is with the Minor Irrigation Department. So it is now in charge of the Collector. I think this was received about two months back.''